



Californians Against Waste

Conserving Resources. Preventing Pollution. Protecting the Environment.

May 30, 2017

Krysty Emery
Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812
Submitted via email: CarpetEnforcement@calrecycle.ca.gov

RE: Californians Against Waste's Comments on CalRecycle's Draft Carpet Stewardship Program Enforcement Plan

Dear Ms. Emery:

Californians Against Waste (CAW) appreciates this opportunity to provide comments on CalRecycle's Draft Carpet Stewardship Enforcement Plan, as released on May 16, 2017. CAW is a Sacramento-based environmental non-profit that advocates for recycling policies. CAW was involved in the original legislation that formed the Carpet Stewardship Program (program), AB 2398 (Pérez, 2010) and currently holds a seat on the California Council on Carpet Recycling (CCCCR). CAW urges CalRecycle to recognize the failure of the Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE) as a carpet stewardship organization by eliminating Compliance Option A from the enforcement plan and levying fines on carpet manufacturers if they do not submit an adequate carpet stewardship plan of their own.

In light of CalRecycle's rejection of the proposed and revised 2017-2021 carpet stewardship plans in December 2016 and April 2017 respectively - as submitted by CARE - CAW is disappointed that the department is only now discussing enforcement. Despite the specification in AB 2398 that manufacturers must have an approved plan to sell carpet in California, CalRecycle unnecessarily extended the authorization of CARE's 2016 plan through June 1, 2017 when the 2017-2021 plans were rejected. CalRecycle should have levied fines on California carpet manufacturers beginning January 1, 2017. CARE's execution of the program is clearly flawed and CalRecycle's authorization of CARE as a stewardship organization must be eliminated from the enforcement plan.

CAW requests that Compliance Option A – The opportunity for carpet manufacturers to remain a member of CARE and keep the program in CARE's hands – be struck. Manufacturers should instead be required to execute Compliance Option B – submission of individual carpet stewardship plans or membership in an alternative stewardship organization. Further, the enforcement plan should be amended to specify that penalties on manufactures *will* be levied in the event that an inadequate plan, or plans, is/are submitted.

In the years that the carpet stewardship program has been unsuccessfully executed by CARE,

California has missed enormous opportunity to recapture resources and expand carpet recycling. It is time for CalRecycle to reject CARE as a stewardship organization, implement AB 2398 the way it was intended, and prioritize waste reduction and environmental protection in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly McBee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "K" and "M".

Kelly McBee
Policy Analyst
Californians Against Waste